

REMARKS

I. Introduction

FIG. 2 in the drawings and claims 1, 2, 20, and 21 have been amended. New claims 61-76 have been added. Claims 3-19 and 22-60 are also in the case. Entry of the amendments proposed in this Reply and reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

II. Showing Pursuant To 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

A. The Amendment To The Drawings

Applicants' proposed correction serves only to render FIG. 2 in the formal drawings consistent with the FIG. 2 in the informal drawings as originally-filed. The need for this correction to FIG. 2 (see Exhibit A) is clear from the description on page 21, lines 6-11, in which the "USER PREFERENCE PROFILE" button shown in FIG. 2 is associated with reference numeral --244-- rather than "224".

Because applicants' proposed amendment to the drawings serves only to render FIG. 2 consistent with the informal drawings as originally-filed and its corresponding description in the specification, applicants' proposed amendment to FIG. 2 does not raise any issue of new matter and should therefore be entered.

In accordance with MPEP § 608.02(r), a separate letter to the Official Draftsperson is also being sent herewith.

B. The Amendments To The Claims

Applicants propose replacing claims 1, 2, 20, and 21 in order to ensure that the term "e-mail reminder messages" is being used consistently throughout the claims. The annotated amendments to claims 1, 2, 20, and 21 with markings to show changes are annexed hereto as Exhibit B. Because applicants' proposed amendments to the claims serve only to correct a minor and obvious informality, claims 1, 2, 20, and 21 should be replaced.

III. The Rejections Based On 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The final Office Action dated October 30, 2000 indicates that claims 1-60 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schein et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,002,394 (hereinafter "Schein") in view of Payne et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,021,433 (hereinafter "Payne"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As defined in independent claims 1 and 20, applicants' invention is directed to an e-mail reminder system that allows a user of an Internet television program guide to select a television program from a set of television listings and to order an e-mail reminder message for that selected television program. Dependent claims 2-19 and 21-76 further define different aspects of the invention relating to configuring and managing the e-mail reminder messages according to user preferences.

A. Schein Fails To Show Or
Suggest The Claimed Invention

Applicants submit that the e-mail reminder system and method defined in claims 1 and 20, respectively, are neither shown nor suggested in Schein, Payne, or their combination. In the October 30, 2000 final Office Action, page 3, paragraph 6, the Examiner observes that "Schein does not explicitly disclose that the reminders of scheduled television events are done through e-mail reminders." However, the Examiner insists that it "would have been obvious . . . to have . . . a system that allowed for the reminder of television events through the use of e-mail, since Schein provides for the teachings of scheduling and notifying of different television events through the internet." In support of this contention, the Examiner cites the following sections in Schein: col. 2, lines 20-67; col. 9, lines 21-67; col. 15, lines 58-67; col. 16, lines 1-14; col. 23, lines 19-36; and FIGS. 19A-19C.

Applicants submit that the cited sections fail to show or suggest the invention defined in claims 1 and 20. In col. 2, lines 20-67 and col. 9, lines 21-67 in Schein, the discussion does not at all pertain to reminders (of any kind) for television events. While col. 15, lines 58-67 and col. 16, lines 1-14 in Schein provide a description of a television program guide that has a reminder feature, the description does not go beyond mentioning that "programs can be selected for . . . placing a reminder to watch the

program", thereby providing no indication that the reminder is sent via e-mail, as specified in claims 1 and 20.

Although col. 23, lines 19-36 and FIGS. 19A-19C in Schein describe an arrangement in which a "television viewer may accept incoming e-mail messages or send outgoing messages to other television viewers or users connected to the television schedule system," the cited passage provides no further indication as to whether the e-mail messages are reminders for scheduled television events that have been selected by a user from a set of television listings, as required by claims 1 and 20. Instead, the cited passage describes a mechanism for creating e-mail messages that is different from the arrangement defined in applicants' claims. As described in col. 23, lines 23-26 and as shown in FIG. 19A of Schein, the e-mail messages referred to therein are accessible by entering a "Messages" mode, which is separate from the "Program Guide" mode. This is unlike the arrangement required by applicants' claims 1 and 20 in which e-mail reminder messages are generated as a result of user interaction with the television listings in the program guide (i.e., selection of a television program).

In col. 23, lines 32-35 and FIG. 19B, Schein describes its mechanism for generating e-mail messages in greater detail: "To send outgoing messages, the viewer scrolls down to the 'Create Message' cell and activates this cell to open up a blank window. A message may be created by inputting text on the input device". This description of

manually creating an e-mail message simply does not resemble the arrangement defined in claims 1 and 20, in which an e-mail reminder message is provided to the user as a result of the user's selection of a television program from a set of program listings. In view of the foregoing, Schein fails to show or suggest the invention defined in claims 1 and 20, and their dependent claims 2-19 and 21-76.

B. The Combination Of Schein And Payne Fails To Show Or Suggest The Claimed Invention

The deficiencies in the disclosure of Schein cannot be remedied by the disclosure of Payne, which is directed to a system and method for parsing "data feeds from existing information sources . . . for optimized wireless transmission . . . to connected and non-connected computing devices" (Payne, col. 3, lines 17-21).

If Schein and Payne were combined, their combination would fail to result in a system that embodies each and every feature of the claimed invention. Like Schein, Payne fails to disclose the specific arrangement defined in claims 1 and 20. For example, the context in which "e-mail" is discussed in Payne does not relate to reminder messages for scheduled television events that have been requested by a user of an Internet television program guide. Rather, "e-mail" is one of the types of data feeds that may be parsed for transmission in the wireless system featured in Payne (col. 7, lines 50-67 and col. 8, lines

1-14). The section in Payne that the Examiner cites (col. 19, lines 64-67 and col. 20, lines 1-13) is similarly uninformative as it is limited to a discussion on how the parsed e-mail can be segmented and addressed for reception by wireless receiving devices. Moreover, nothing in Payne indicates that the e-mail data mentioned therein were generated as a result of a user interacting with a set of television program listings provided over the Internet. Because the disclosure of Payne discusses "e-mail" in the context of processing data feeds for wireless transmission, it is unsurprising that Payne does not delve into the details of the subject-matter of the individual e-mail messages or how the e-mail messages were created. Given these deficiencies in the disclosure of Payne, the deficiencies in the disclosure of Schein cannot be remedied by their combination.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the invention defined in independent claims 1 and 20, and their dependent claims 2-19 and 21-76 are patentable over Schein in view of Payne.

IV. Newly Added Dependent Claims 61-76

Applicants propose amending the claims to include new dependent claims 61-76 in order to more particularly define the invention. Because it has been demonstrated in the foregoing that claims 1 and 20 are allowable, newly-

added claims 61-76 are also allowable because they depend from claims 1 and 20.

V. Request For Acknowledgment Of Previously-Filed Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants request acknowledgment and consideration of a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed March 29, 2000 (annexed hereto as Exhibit C) in the next communication from the Office. Because applicants' March 29, 2000 Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement included a copy of the reference cited therein, a copy of that document is not being submitted herewith.

VI. Conclusion

The foregoing demonstrates that claims 1-60 and newly added dependent claims 61-76 are allowable. This application is therefore in condition for allowance.

Entry of the amendments proposed in this Reply and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

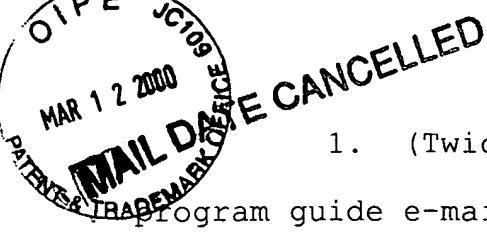
I Herby Certify that this Correspondence is being Deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an Envelope Addressed to: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231 on
March 7, 2001
Claire J. Saintal
Signature
Signature of Person Signing

Respectfully submitted,

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Exhibit B:

VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS 1, 2, 20, and 21
WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE



1. (Twice Amended) An Internet television program guide e-mail reminder system for providing e-mail [message reminders] reminder messages of scheduled television events to a user at a multimedia system over the Internet comprising:

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a web server for providing web pages of television program listings over the Internet, wherein the web server provides the user with an opportunity to select a television program from the television program listings web pages provided over the Internet, allows the user to order at least one e-mail reminder message for that television program, and sends the e-mail reminder message to the multimedia system over the Internet to remind the user when that television program is to be broadcast.

2. (Twice Amended) The system defined in claim 1 wherein the web pages provide an e-mail reminder option which the user selects to order e-mail [reminders] reminder messages.

20. (Twice Amended) A method for providing e-mail [message reminders] reminder messages of scheduled television events to a user at a multimedia system over the

Internet using an Internet television program guide system, the method comprising:

providing television program listings over the Internet;

selecting a television program from the television program listings provided over the Internet; and providing e-mail [reminders] reminder messages to the multimedia system over the Internet that remind the user when the television program is to be broadcast.

21. (Twice Amended) The method defined in claim
20 further comprising providing an e-mail reminder option
which the user selects to order e-mail [reminders] reminder
messages.

FIG. 2

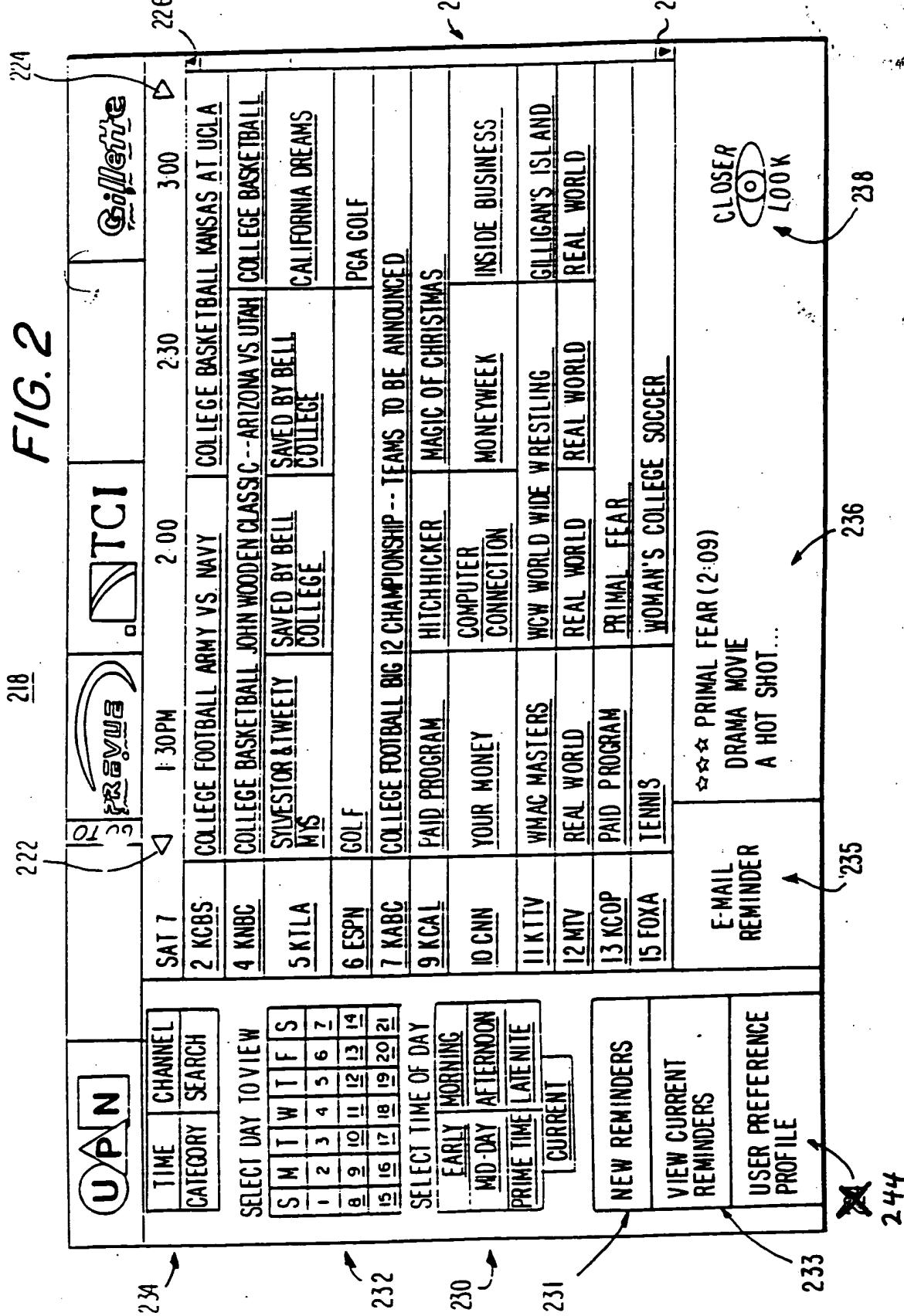


EXHIBIT C



Docket No. UV-29

Applicant Franklin E. Boyer et al.

Serial No. 08/987,740 Filed December 9, 1997

Receipt is hereby acknowledged of the

*Transmittal Letter (in duplicate); Supplemental
Information Disclosure Statement; Form PTO-1449 (in
duplicate); and copy of cited reference.*

Dated March 29, 2000

Filed in connection with the above case.

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS
AND TRADEMARKS

